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**God's Wonder World.** A manual for religious instruction in junior grades. By Cora Stanwood Cobb. Boston: Beacon Press, 1918. Pp. xxi+335. \$1.25.

This book is an important contribution to the growing collection of material for use in religious education that is extra-biblical. It is a very successful attempt to interpret the ordinary phenomena of nature to children in a religious spirit, continually directing their attention to the beneficent aspects of nature and to God as the author and controller of all natural laws. It is intended for children of about nine years of age and is the latest edition to the "Beacon Course in Religious Education."

The children's leaflets which accompany the teacher's manual are attractive in content and provide for some improvisational material as well as constructive handwork.

While it will doubtless appeal most strongly to those who are using a great deal of extra-biblical material in the Sunday-school curriculum, it would be useful as a source book for many who wish to use only an occasional lesson of this sort.

**A Book about the English Bible.** By J. H. Penniman. New York: Macmillan, 1919. Pp. x+444. \$2.25.

The English Bible seems to have perennial interest for teachers of English literature, and quite naturally so, for in the Authorized Version it is a masterpiece of world-literature. Professor Penniman, of the department of English at the University of Pennsylvania, has added one more book to the many already existing that deal with the origin, history, and literary value of the English Bible. It is a book packed with information upon a great variety of subjects. It will be read primarily, not for entertainment nor for interest, but for instruction. It is a book to be worked through rather than run through. The first fifteen chapters deal with such topics as "The Sources of the English Bible," "The Background of the Old Testament," "The Background of the New Testament," "Poetic Forms," "Imagery and Allusion," "Biblical History," "Biblical Stories," "Parables," "Prophets," "Letters and Homilies," "Apocalypses," and studies of special books. The last six chapters trace the history of the English Bible from its earliest

beginning down to date. A good bibliography fills the last seven pages. Professor Penniman has done hard and faithful work in the consultation of many sources, many of which he has cited in footnotes and thus made available for verification; hence his results are reliable and may be accepted without cavil by the serious student. This is not saying that there may not be an occasional slip from the path of right; that would be expecting too much of any man in so wide a field as this. For example, the oldest bit of known manuscript containing Hebrew biblical text is not the Codex Petropolitanus (p. 3), but the Nash Papyrus, discovered a few years ago and presenting the Hebrew Decalogue. Or again, it is too venturesome to say (pp. 23 f.) that Genesis, chapter 14, has been proved to be veritable history. The accepted spelling of the name of the Hebrew songbook is "Jashar" (pp. 30 f.). But such details are not numerous and do not seriously impair the value of the book. The possession of this book will make unnecessary the purchase of many less comprehensive and less dependable works.

**Our Part in the World.** By Ella Lyman Cabot. Boston: Beacon Press, 1918. Pp. xvi+187 and xxiii+93. Teacher's manual, \$0.50; pupils' book, \$0.75.

Still another volume from the "Beacon Series" prepared by an author who is already widely known for the preparation of ethical studies for young people. The task that Miss Cabot undertakes, namely to open up the whole world to boys and girls of fourteen to seventeen years of age, is a very large one, and its method is necessarily hampered by the fact that young people of these ages coming from different types of homes have sometimes acquired knowledge of this sort and frequently have not. The chapters are short, and each covers a large subject. The amount of instruction and inspiration, therefore, which may come from it would in some cases possibly not go farther than what the pupil already knows and feels. On the other hand, to many young people it should constitute a very fine method of gathering together fragments of knowledge and interest and interpreting them from the religious point of view. It is clear to all who are engaged in religious education that one of the chief functions of the church is to interpret life and to create attitudes. Miss Cabot's books are a genuine contribution to this problem.